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Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 24 April 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter from Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (annex I), enclosing the resolutions, final communiqué and other texts adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session, held at the summit level in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002 (see annex II), and requesting that this letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Houssam Asaad **Diab**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
Head of the Fourteenth Session of the Council of the
League of Arab States at the Summit Level

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Annex I to the letter dated 24 April 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Further to my letter dated 31 March 2002 enclosing the text of the Arab Peace Initiative, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of the resolutions and other documents adopted by the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States at its session held in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002, with the request that they be circulated to Member States.

I should also like to take this opportunity to assure you once again of my commitment to continued cooperation and coordination between our two organizations in performing their respective roles in the maintenance of international peace and security.

(*Signed*) Amre **Moussa**
Secretary-General

Annex II to the letter dated 24 April 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States

Fourteenth regular session
Beirut, Lebanon
27 and 28 March 2002

- Resolutions
- Final communiqué
- Beirut Declaration
- Statement concerning the requirement that innocent civilians should be protected from the dangers of the escalating confrontation caused by Israel's policy of aggression
- Address by His Excellency General Émile Lahoud, President of the Lebanese Republic
- Chairmen of the delegations of the Arab States, listed by country in the alphabetical order, in Arabic, of the country names

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Resolutions

Arab Peace Initiative

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Reaffirming the decision of the extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Cairo in June 1996 that a just and comprehensive peace is a strategic choice for the Arab States to be achieved in accordance with international legality and to require an equivalent commitment in this regard on the part of Israel,

Having heard the statement in which His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, presented his Initiative and called for Israel's full withdrawal from all the Arab territories that have been occupied since 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) as confirmed by the 1991 Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace, and for its acceptance of the emergence of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital in return for the establishment by the Arab States of normal relations in the context of a comprehensive peace with Israel,

Proceeding from the conviction of the Arab States that a military solution to the conflict will not achieve peace or provide security for any of the parties,

1. Requests Israel to re-examine its policies and to incline towards peace and declare that a just peace is also its own strategic choice;

2. Further calls upon it:

(a) To withdraw fully from the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and from the territories in southern Lebanon that are still occupied;

(b) To arrive at a just and agreed solution to the Palestine refugee problem in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

(c) To accept the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State in the Palestinian territories occupied since 4 June 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital;

3. Undertakes that the Arab States shall then:

(a) Consider the Arab-Israeli conflict at an end and enter into a peace agreement between them and Israel while achieving security for all the States of the region;

(b) Establish normal relations with Israel in the context of this comprehensive peace;

4. Guarantees the rejection of all forms of Palestinian resettlement, which is incompatible with the special situation in the Arab host countries;

5. Urges the Government of Israel and all Israelis to accept the foregoing Initiative in order to safeguard the prospects for peace and spare further bloodshed, thus enabling the Arab States and Israel to live side by side in peace and ensuring for generations to come a secure future in which stability and prosperity can prevail;

6. Invites the international community and all its constituent States and organizations to support this Initiative;

7. Requests the Chairman of the summit to form a special committee, to include interested member States and the Secretary-General of the League, to pursue the necessary contacts to gain support for this Initiative at all levels and in particular from the United Nations, the Security Council, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the Islamic countries and the European Union.

(*Summit resolution 14/221, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Report of the Follow-up and Action Committee

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

> The report of the Follow-up and Action Committee to the presidency of the summit and the recommendations contained therein,

Decides:

1. To commend the performance of the Follow-up and Action Committee and to thank the chairman and members of the Committee, as well as the Secretary-General, for their creditable efforts to monitor the implementation of the resolutions of the 2001 Amman summit;

2. To entrust the presidency of the summit, the Lebanese Republic, with the task of conducting consultations with the Arab leaders and with the Secretary-General on the composition of the Committee and, guided by the relevant views expressed by member States, on improving its mechanisms and modes of operation;

3. To request the Committee to submit periodic reports on its activities, together with its recommendations, to the presidency of the current summit for submission to the next Arab summit.

(*Summit resolution 14/222, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Consideration of the ideas presented to the 2001 Amman summit by Colonel Muammar Al-Qadhafi, Leader of the Great 1 September Revolution

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The report of the Follow-up and Action Committee on the implementation of the resolutions of the Amman summit, the thirteenth regular session of the Summit-level Council, as it relates to this item,

Having noted the steps taken by the ministerial committee established to consider this topic and the recommendations adopted by it at its meeting of 9 March 2002,

Having heard the briefing on the subject presented by the chairman of the delegation of the Great Jamahiriya,

Decides:

1. To request the ministerial committee established to consider the ideas presented to the 2001 Amman summit by Colonel Muammar Al-Qadhafi, Leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, to continue its work and bring its task to a speedy conclusion;

2. To convene an extraordinary Arab summit at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo or in any of the Arab States to consider the outcome of the committee's work.

(*Summit resolution 14/223, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Question of Palestine, and recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict:

(a) Subventions to the budget of the Palestinian National Authority and to the Al-Aqsa Fund and the Al-Quds Intifadah Fund

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The recommendation made by the Ministerial-level Council of the League of Arab States in its resolution 6153 of 10 March 2002;

And the proposal of the Secretary-General of the League,

Decides:

1. To invite the Arab States to grant the budget of the Palestinian National Authority a subvention in the total amount of 330 million United States dollars, to consist of 55 million dollars a month for six months beginning on 1 April 2002, automatically renewable for a further six-month period in the event that the Israeli aggression should continue and the need of the Palestinian National Authority for the subvention should persist, it being understood that all such sums are to be in the form of non-reimbursable grants, that the required contribution from each member State is to be proportional to its assessed contribution to the budget of the League secretariat, that States that so desire are encouraged to make contributions in excess of their assigned share, and that the contributions of member States are to be paid into a new special account to be opened for this purpose by the secretariat of the League of Arab States;

2. To invite member States to provide a further subvention in the amount of 150 million dollars to be channelled to the Al-Aqsa Fund and the Al-Quds Intifadah Fund and to be allocated to the promotion of development activities in Palestine;

3. To commend the financial support and assistance in kind provided by the governments and peoples of member States to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority;

4. To urge the Arab peoples to contribute generously to the account to support the tenacity of the Palestinian people (account No. 124448) that the

League of Arab States has established at branches of the Arab Bank in order to promote popular participation in supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and its valiant Intifadah.

(*Summit resolution 14/224 A, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Question of Palestine, and recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict:

(b) Support for the Intifadah and steadfastness of the Palestinian people

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Affirming its enduring support for the Palestinian people and its political leadership in the struggle for legitimate national rights, and declaring its unconditional support for the hallowed Intifadah of the Palestinian people and for its steadfast endurance until such time as it achieves its objectives of freedom, independence and the establishment of an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital,

Condemning in the strongest terms the bloody military campaign of repression being carried out by the Government of Israel against the steadfast Palestinian people with the destruction of Palestinian institutions, the reoccupation of towns, villages and camps, the killing and harassment of Palestinian civilians, the detention of hundreds of people and the imposition of a stifling military and economic blockade,

Taking account of the recommendations of the Follow-up and Action Committee established at the regular session of the Arab summit conference held in Amman, Jordan, in March 2001,

Decides:

1. To maintain and augment political and material support to the Palestinian people and its national leadership in their heroic Intifadah and their valiant resistance to the Israeli campaign of repression, terror and harassment and in their legitimate struggle to secure their national right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian State that will enable them to live in the same freedom and dignity as other peoples;

2. To reaffirm that the option of a comprehensive and just peace is the established position of the Arab States, is to be realized through the implementation of the resolutions that embody international legitimacy and requires the Israeli side to espouse the following principles:

(a) Withdrawal of Israeli military forces from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967 in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, namely Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978); and the dismantlement of the existing settlements as unlawful and in violation of the provisions of international law and the Geneva conventions of 1949;

(b) Establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital;

(c) Recognition of the right of return of the Palestine refugees in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

3. To condemn Israel's violations of the statutes the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its constant attacks on medical teams and Red Cross and Red Crescent ambulances and its hindrance of these humanitarian agencies in the performance of their duties under international humanitarian law and, specifically, the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

4. To hold Israel fully accountable for its aggression and for its actions and their consequences and liable for compensation for the physical and economic losses and damage it has inflicted on Palestinian infrastructure in towns, villages and camps and on establishments of the Palestinian national economy; and to warn against the consequences of its pillage and its persistence in these grievous policies against the Palestinian people, its national institutions and its legitimate leadership;

5. To condemn the State terrorism practised by the Israeli Government and the Israeli military establishment, the killings of civilians, the destruction of the institutions and infrastructure of the Palestinian Authority, and the invasion and reoccupation of Palestinian towns, villages and camps; to urge the international community, and in particular the Security Council and its permanent members, to act immediately to halt Israel's aggression and its heinous massacres of civilians and to take steps to provide international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation; and to insist on the implementation

of the Declaration adopted on 5 December 2001 by the reconvened Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

6. To support the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority so as to bolster their steadfastness for as long as the Israeli occupation and aggression of the occupied territories continues;

7. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of this resolution.

(*Summit resolution 14/224 B, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Question of Palestine, and recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict:

Solidarity with and support for Lebanon

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Recalling the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences and ministerial councils on solidarity with and support for Lebanon,

Recalling in particular Amman Arab summit conference resolution 205 of 28 March 2001,

Decides:

1. To condemn Israel in the strongest terms for its continued occupation of Lebanese territory and of positions along Lebanon's borders, for its continued detention of Lebanese citizens in its prisons, for its failure to hand over to the United Nations all of the maps showing the locations of the landmines laid by its occupying forces and for its ongoing violations of Lebanese sovereignty on land, at sea and in the air; and to denounce Israeli outrages and threats directed against Lebanon and Syria and regard any aggression against them as aggression against all the Arab States;

2. To affirm support for Lebanon:

(a) In completing the liberation of its territory from Israeli occupation, including the Shab'a farmlands, up to the internationally recognized boundaries in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), while retaining its right to resist such occupation by all legitimate means;

(b) In its demand for the release of the Lebanese prisoners and detainees held in Israeli prisons as hostages in violation of the norms of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and The Hague Convention of 1907 and in exercising its right to liberate these prisoners using all legitimate means;

(c) In its demand for the removal of the hundreds of thousands of landmines the Israeli occupation has left behind, on the understanding that Israel must bear responsibility for their placement and for the civilian deaths and injuries that they cause;

(d) In asserting its right to its territorial waters in accordance with international law and in opposition to Israeli ambitions;

3. To call upon the international community and international judicial and political entities:

(a) To bring pressure to bear on Israel to compensate Lebanon for the losses and damage caused by its repeated incursions into Lebanese territory before, during and since the time of the occupation;

(b) To enable delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross and representatives of other humanitarian organizations to visit all of the Lebanese detainees on an ongoing basis and to assess their condition and provide them with medical care;

(c) To endeavour to have the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopt a resolution that will make it possible to investigate cases where detainees have died in Israeli detention camps so that compensation can be paid to injured parties in accordance with international law and the relevant conventions;

4. To affirm the right of return of the Palestine refugees to their homes; and to caution that any failure to resolve the case of those residing in Lebanon on the basis of their return to their homes in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principles of international law and any attempt at their resettlement will undermine security and stability in the region and impede the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace;

5. To thank the member States and Arab funds that have provided aid and financial assistance to the Lebanese Government; to request all States to meet the commitments given at the Arab summit conferences for support to Lebanon and for the steadfastness of its people and its reconstruction; to reactivate the Lebanon Support Fund in accordance with its founding statute;

to assist the Lebanese Government in rebuilding and in reconstruction and development, especially in the areas liberated from Israeli occupation; and to support Lebanon's call to member States to sponsor specific projects and fund bilateral development projects;

6. To monitor the implementation of paragraph 6 of resolution 6156, adopted by the Ministerial-level Council of the League of Arab States at its one hundred and seventeenth session on 10 March 2002, on the financing of development projects in southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa;

7. To condemn State terrorism and reject attempts to include resistance in terrorism statutes, on the grounds that a distinction must be drawn between terrorism and legitimate resistance to Israeli occupation; and to affirm the need for an international conference to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations to consider terrorism and elaborate an international counter-terrorism convention that incorporates a precise definition of the phenomenon that differentiates between it and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation.

(*Summit resolution 14/225, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Question of Palestine, and recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict:

The occupied Syrian Arab Golan

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Decides:

1. To condemn Israel in the strongest terms for its continued occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan; and to affirm its solidarity with Syria and its support for Syria's right to the restoration of all the occupied Syrian Arab Golan up to the line of 4 June 1967, in accordance with the principles of the peace process and the relevant resolutions;

2. To affirm the Arab position of maintaining full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon and of alignment with them in confronting the constant Israeli attacks and threats against them; and to regard any attack on Syria and Lebanon as an attack on the Arab nation;

3. To support the steadfast endurance of the Arab residents of the occupied Syrian Golan and align itself with them in their opposition to Israel's occupation and repressive practices and their perseverance in clinging to their land and their Syrian Arab identity; and to reaffirm the essential applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention to the citizens of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;

4. To uphold the resolutions requiring that any situation created by Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories should not be recognized on the grounds that it is unlawful and gives rise to no rights or obligations, that the building of settlements and introduction of settlers is in serious violation of the Geneva Conventions, constitutes a war crime under Additional Protocol I to the Conventions and is in breach of the principles of the peace process, and that there must therefore be a halt to all Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Syrian Golan and the occupied Arab territories;

5. To condemn the policy of the Israeli Government that has destroyed the peace process and has led to a constant escalation of tension in the region; and to urge the international community, and especially the co-sponsors of the Madrid peace conference and the European Union, to induce Israel to comply with the United Nations resolutions relating to its full withdrawal from the Syrian Arab Golan, and from all the occupied Arab territories, to the line of 4 June 1967.

(*Summit resolution 14/226, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered the situation between Iraq and Kuwait,

Decides:

1. To welcome the assurances provided by the Republic of Iraq concerning respect for the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait, thereby obviating any possible repetition of the events of 1990; to urge the pursuit, in a framework of good faith and relations of good-neighbourliness, of policies conducive to that goal; and to urge, in this connection, the importance of halting negative media campaigns and pronouncements with a view to creating a positive climate in which the two countries can confidently uphold the principles of

good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of others;

2. To demand respect for the independence, sovereignty, security, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq;

3. To urge Iraq to cooperate in the formulation of a speedy and definitive solution to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and the return of property, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and to call for Kuwait's cooperation in connection with Iraq's submissions, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, concerning missing Iraqis;

4. To welcome the resumption of the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations, which began in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with a view to the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

5. To call for the sanctions imposed on Iraq to be lifted and for the suffering of its fraternal people to be brought to an end so that stability and security in the region can be ensured;

6. To affirm — having considered the threat of aggression against certain Arab States, and in particular Iraq — their unconditional rejection of a strike against Iraq; and to regard a threat to the security and integrity of any Arab State as a threat to the national security of all Arab States.

(*Summit resolution 14/227, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Reaffirming the resolutions adopted in the inter-Arab and pan-Islamic contexts concerning the occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa,

And inasmuch as the three islands are occupied Arab territory,

Decides:

1. To express its unconditional affirmation of the full sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and its support for all the peaceful measures and actions the United Arab Emirates is taking with a view to restoring its sovereignty over the occupied islands;

2. To denounce the Iranian Government's persistence in perpetuating its occupation of the three islands and violating the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, thereby undermining security and stability in the region and posing a threat to international peace and security;

3. To condemn the construction by the Iranian Government of residential installations for the settlement of Iranians in the three occupied Arab islands;

4. To condemn Iranian military exercises that extend to the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, as well as to the country's territorial waters, its airspace, the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of the three islands as an integral part of the United Arab Emirates; and to urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to desist from committing such violations and engaging in provocative actions that are to be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State, that are unhelpful for the process of building confidence, that pose a threat to security and stability in the region and that endanger the security and safety of intra-regional and international shipping in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To renew its calls to the Iranian Government: to end its occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates; to refrain from imposing a fait accompli by force; to desist from building installations in the islands for the purpose of altering their demographic composition; to revoke all measures taken and remove all installations put in place unilaterally by Iran in the three Arab islands, given that such actions and claims are null and void, have no legal effect, cannot diminish the established right of the United Arab Emirates to the three islands and are incompatible with the norms of international law and the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949; and to pursue peaceful means to resolve the existing dispute in accordance with the

principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the case to the International Court of Justice;

6. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its position of refusing to seek a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and will agree to do so either through serious, direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice;

7. To call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to translate into practical and concrete measures, in both word and in deed, its declared desire for improved relations with the Arab States, for dialogue and for the elimination of tension, and to do so by responding candidly to the earnest and sincere calls issued by His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Head of State of the United Arab Emirates, by the Gulf Cooperation Council, by the Damascus Declaration countries, by the various country groups, by friendly States and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a peaceful settlement to the dispute concerning the three occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates in accordance with the relevant conventions and covenants and the norms of international law, to be reached through direct negotiations or by referral to the International Court of Justice, in order to build confidence and strengthen security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;

8. To undertake, in the contacts maintained by all Arab States with the Islamic Republic of Iran, to raise the issue of Iran's occupation of the three Arab islands in order to stress that this occupation must be ended, given that the three islands are occupied Arab territory;

9. To notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the importance of ensuring that the question is retained on the list of items of which the Security Council is seized until such time as the Islamic Republic of Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates regains full sovereignty over them;

10. To request the Secretary-General of the League to monitor the situation and submit a report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

(*Summit resolution 14/228, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Coercive measures and threats against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya because of the dispute concerning the Lockerbie case

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the subject and the statements and resolutions adopted by the conferences of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States,

Appreciating the flexible position taken by the Great Jamahiriya and the positive initiatives it has advanced with a view to resolving the dispute in a peaceful manner,

Recalling once again the enormity and extent of the damage done to the Great Jamahiriya by the sanctions imposed on it and their adverse impact on the economies of neighbouring States,

Affirming that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has fully satisfied all the requirements of Security Council resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), 883 (1993) and 1192 (1998),

Reiterating its deep regret that the Security Council has not thus far adopted a resolution lifting the sanctions against the Great Jamahiriya completely and definitively, despite having received the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations conveying the information that Libya has fully satisfied the requirements of all the Security Council resolutions indicated,

Guided by the principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States,

Decides:

1. To voice its regret at the conviction of one of the Libyan nationals; to express its firm belief that the innocence of either one of them implies that of the other, given that the charges against both were based on identical suppositions; to further voice its deep regret that on 14 March 2002 the Scottish Appeal Court issued an Opinion rejecting the appeal of the Libyan national Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi; and to express its surprise that this Opinion, like its predecessor, was dictated by well-known political motives and that the

Court ignored the new evidence presented by the defence proving the innocence of the accused;

2. To alert world public opinion to the political motives that underlay a verdict imposed on a Libyan national that legal experts have found to be flawed in several respects; to demand his immediate release; and to regard him, as long as he remains in detention, as a hostage according to all applicable laws and customs;

3. To reaffirm its categorical rejection of persistent efforts to block the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriya and ignore the provisions of paragraph 16 of Security Council resolution 883 (1993) and the substance of the related report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, which efforts are in violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Security Council and the agreement and guarantees found acceptable by the parties to the dispute;

4. To call upon the Security Council to lift the sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriya immediately and definitively on the grounds that the country has satisfied all the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the Council, including its resolution 1192 (1998); and to request the Secretary-General of the League to pursue his endeavours with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council for the adoption of the necessary measures to that end and to maintain contact with the various regional groupings with a view to bringing the necessary pressures to bear;

5. To urge all Arab States collectively to countermand the sanctions and to regard themselves as free of all obligation in their regard, in accordance with the provisions of the resolutions adopted by the Council of the League meeting at the ministerial and summit levels, given that their maintenance has lost all justification on any grounds whatever;

6. To express its regret that on 7 January 2002 the United States renewed the economic embargo measures it has been maintaining against the Great Jamahiriya for a further period of one year under the so-called National Emergencies Act first applied in 1986 as a result of the crisis with Libya;

7. To appeal to the United States of America to engage in a direct dialogue on equal terms with the Great Jamahiriya in order to discuss and resolve whatever factors may be preventing the normalization of bilateral relations between the two countries;

8. To support the legitimate right of the Great Jamahiriya to receive just compensation for the damage done to it in both material and human terms by the sanctions that were imposed on it;

9. To request the legal committee established by League Council resolution 6119 of 10 September 2001 to monitor developments with respect to the issue;

10. To retain the present item in its agenda until such time as the case can finally be closed;

11. To request the Secretary-General of the League to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its next session.

(*Summit resolution 14/229, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Solidarity with and assistance to Arab countries:

(a) Republic of the Sudan

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Decides:

1. To affirm its commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, its rejection of any attempts to dismember the country and its appreciation of the efforts of the Government of the Sudan to achieve a comprehensive peace and national reconciliation among all Sudanese;

2. To support and endorse the joint Egyptian-Libyan initiative for the achievement of peace and national reconciliation in the Sudan and the coordination of this initiative with that of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other efforts with a view to expediting the achievement of a comprehensive ceasefire and of peace and national reconciliation;

3. To welcome the signing of the ceasefire agreement for the region of the Nuba mountains; to express appreciation for the efforts of the Sudanese Government to ensure its implementation; and to support the Government's efforts to achieve a

comprehensive ceasefire and achieve peace and national reconciliation;

4. To urge the United States of America to lift the unilateral economic sanctions it has imposed on the Sudan so as to enable it to make a serious contribution to ensuring the success of the peace process in the Sudan;

5. To call upon the regional and international parties concerned to support the efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation in the Sudan and to refrain from acts of interference that may impede efforts to achieve this worthy goal;

6. To establish an Arab fund to assist the Sudan in developing the south, to which member States are to contribute in accordance with its statute; and to request the Secretary-General to hold the necessary consultations in order to mobilize the resources required for the fund;

7. To request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to support the Sudanese peace and reconciliation process.

(*Summit resolution 14/230 A, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Solidarity with and assistance to Arab countries:

(b) Republic of Somalia

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Decides:

1. To welcome the efforts of the transitional Government of Somalia to achieve comprehensive reconciliation and restore security and stability to all parts of Somalia; and to affirm the importance of all the Somali factions joining the current reconciliation efforts;

2. To provide a subvention in the amount of 56 million dollars to the Somali Government in order to enable it to implement its high-priority programme for the restoration of security and stability and complete the Somali reconciliation process and the rebuilding of State institutions, for which purpose member States will remit their contributions, in accordance with the scale of assessments for the secretariat budget, to Somalia support account No. 91165 at the Bank of Cairo;

3. To urge member States to affirm, in their bilateral relations with Somalia's neighbours, the collective Arab position based on the preservation of Somalia's unity and territorial integrity and the rejection of interference in its internal affairs and to highlight the desire of the transitional Government of Somalia to establish relations of good neighbourliness with them;

4. To request the Secretary-General to maintain contact with the neighbouring countries and continue his consultations with them on the question of Somalia in order to present the Arab point of view; and to affirm the readiness of the League of Arab States to cooperate with all such parties and coordinate its actions with them with a view to advancing common interests in the region and establishing an interregional mechanism embracing international and regional organizations and the States involved in the Somali crisis in order to promote Somali reconciliation efforts and prevent clashes and rivalry among the various efforts and roles;

5. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and to continue his consultations on the appointment of a special envoy for Somalia; and to invite the ministerial committee on Somalia to convene and to agree on a programme of work.

(*Summit resolution 14/230 B, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Solidarity with and assistance to Arab countries:

(c) Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Decides:

1. To support the positive developments taking place in the Comoros and in particular the commitment of all the Comoran parties to the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Reconciliation in the Comoros of 17 February 2001;

2. To thank the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for their contributions to the Comoros

support fund; to thank all member States that have contributed by providing bilateral assistance; to affirm the commitment of member States to the provision of all types of assistance to the Comoros; and to invite member States to remit their contributions to the Comoros support fund in implementation of the relevant resolution adopted at the 2001 Amman summit;

3. To invite the member States and Arab banks and funds to which the Comoros is indebted to forgive or reschedule its debts;

4. To invite the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to allow the Comoros access to its loans and its assistance, the 2001 Amman summit having decided to amend the Bank's regulations to enable the least developed Afro-Arab countries to benefit from them;

5. To request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts and to embark on the implementation of development projects in the Comoros in coordination with contributing States in the light of the sums available in the Comoros support fund.

(*Summit resolution 14/230 C, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Counter-terrorism

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Expressing its deep concern at the accelerating increase in acts of terrorism,

Affirming the need for international cooperation in the framework of the United Nations in order to confront this phenomenon,

Taking account of the provisions of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism,

Recalling the presentations made to the Ministerial-level Council at its one hundred and seventeenth regular session on 10 March 2002,

Decides:

To endorse resolution 6170 adopted by the Ministerial-level Council at its one hundred and seventeenth regular session on 10 March 2002, as follows:

1. To approve the report and recommendations of the group of Arab experts appointed to study Security Council resolution 1373 (2001);

2. To reaffirm its categorical rejection and vigorous condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and regardless of its motives and rationale; and to differentiate between terrorism and the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation and aggression;

3. To support the efforts being made to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to consider terrorism in all its manifestations and to elaborate a comprehensive international convention to counter and eliminate the phenomenon that incorporates a definition of terrorism and differentiates it from the legitimate right of peoples to combat foreign occupation and aggression;

4. To affirm the relationship that subsists between acts of terrorism and transnational organized crime;

5. To affirm the importance of inter-Arab coordination at the bilateral and collective levels in order to give effect to the provisions of the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism following its entry into force on 7 May 1999; and to study the possibility of including among the terrorist crimes that are punishable under the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism the offences of incitement to terrorism, approval of acts of terrorism, the printing and distribution of publications relating to terrorism, the solicitation of funds for terrorist purposes under the guise of fund-raising for charitable associations and the acquisition and use of property for terrorist purposes;

6. To urge the Arab States that have yet to ratify the Convention to complete the procedures for ratification and accession in an expeditious manner;

7. To reject the attempt to impute the charge of terrorism to Arabs and Muslims; and to affirm the tolerant principles advocated by Islam and its repudiation of all forms of violence;

8. To condemn the harassment of Arab and Muslim citizens in some countries as a violation of the norms of international law and of human rights;

9. To urge the need for constructive and balanced cooperation among all States in the context of countering and coping with terrorism and for

commitment to international legality without selectivity or the use of double standards;

10. To reject any attempt to exploit the campaign against terrorism to launch threats to use force against any Arab State; and to regard any such threat as aggression, as detrimental to the security and stability of the region and as incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law;

11. To request the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of the report and recommendations of the group of experts indicated in paragraph 1 of this resolution and to submit periodic reports to the Ministerial-level Council of the League and its Summit-level Council on the progress made in this domain.

(*Summit resolution 14/231, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The note by the secretariat;

And the resolutions adopted by the Ministerial-level Council of the League, most recently its resolution 6171 of 10 March 2002,

Decides:

1. To affirm its support for the rights of Iraq and Syria with respect to the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers; to invite the Turkish Government to enter into tripartite negotiations as soon as possible with a view to reaching definitive agreement on a just and reasonable division of the waters that will guarantee the rights of the three countries in accordance with the norms of international law and will take account of the recommendations on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers adopted by the Arab Water Security Conference held in Cairo on 21 February 2000;

2. To express its concern that Turkey is continuing to build dams and other projects along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers without prior consultation with the other two riparian States on the use of these international watercourses, as is required by the norms of international law, international treaties and the treaties and protocols concluded among the three States;

3. To monitor the growing Israeli role in the Turkish Günuydoğu Anadolu Projesi (GAP) and the danger it poses to Arab water security;

4. To welcome the decision of the Government of the United Kingdom not to provide export credit guarantees for the construction of the Ilisu dam;

5. To express its concern at the continued resolve of the Swiss Government to provide guarantees for the financing of the Turkish Ilisu dam on the Tigris River; and to urge the Swiss Government to emulate the Government of the United Kingdom by declining to provide guarantees for the financing of the dam;

6. To invite member States to re-examine their dealings with companies linked with the implementation of Turkish projects on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and to use their relations with the States and international institutions that are participating or considering participation in financing or in providing credit guarantees for these projects in order to prevail upon them to desist from doing so until such time as a trilateral agreement is concluded that guarantees the common interests of the three riparian States;

7. To urge member States that have yet to ratify the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses or have yet to deposit instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to so with dispatch and to endeavour to persuade friendly States to take the same action in order to expedite the entry into force of the Convention;

8. To request the Secretary-General to pursue his endeavours with the Turkish side so that the parties may arrive at a just solution to the problem and to maintain contact with the foreign entities that are considering participation in the provision of credit guarantees or in financing and building the Ilisu dam in order to persuade them of the negative impact of such projects and that they should refrain from becoming involved.

(*Summit resolution 14/232, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Greater Arab Free Trade Area

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The report of the Economic and Social Council on the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and the steps being taken to give it full effect;

And the measures taken by the Economic and Social Council to implement Arab summit resolution 212 of 28 March 2001 on advancing the time designated for the full implementation of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area to 2005 and amending accordingly the annual rates at which customs tariffs and taxes of similar effect are to be reduced, on restricting the commodities covered by the Arab agricultural almanac, on eliminating exemptions and on giving effect to the mechanism for the settlement of disputes,

Appreciating the efforts of the Economic and Social Council in this regard, and commending the commitment of the Arab States members of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area to the agreed Programme of Implementation,

Reaffirming the need to eliminate non-tariff administrative, technical, financial, monetary and quota barriers, to submit all tariffs and taxes of similar effect to the agreed phased reduction and to amend legislation that is in conflict with the provisions of the Agreement for the Facilitation and Promotion of Intra-Arab Trade and its Programme of Implementation,

Considering that there are many barriers to inter-Arab trade in pharmaceuticals and medical preparations, in particular, and taking account of the relevant humanitarian considerations and economic dimensions of such trade while recalling Ministerial-level Council resolution 6179,

Decides:

I

1. To levy service fees on goods imported from Arab States in accordance with the actual cost of the service and as a lump sum, while avoiding overvaluation, instead of using percentages of value or quantity;

2. To standardize the structure of the service fees, forms and paper work connected with the inter-Arab flow of goods in all the Arab States, to request the Economic and Social Council to take practical measures to achieve this, and to direct the other entities concerned in the Arab countries to cooperate with the Economic and Social Council in this regard;

3. To refrain, in keeping with the provisions of article 15 of the Agreement for the Facilitation and Promotion of Intra-Arab Trade, from granting States that are currently members of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area any new exemptions after the expiry of the time period allowed for the presently existing exemptions other than within the narrowest limits and in accordance with strict criteria; and to assign the Economic and Social Council the task of assessing the situation with respect to States joining after that time;

II

To welcome the initiative of the Lebanese Republic on the establishment of a unified Arab drug registration board; and to request the Council of Arab Ministers of Health to study the question and submit its proposals to the Economic and Social Council for a decision;

III

To welcome the initiative of the Lebanese Republic, in implementation of the relevant resolution adopted by the thirteenth Arab summit, on devising a workable formula to expedite the incorporation of the liberalization of trade in services into the Greater Arab Free Trade Area in the framework of the Agreement and its Programme of Implementation; and to welcome the convening in Beirut some two months ago, by the Lebanese Republic, of a meeting of experts from the Arab States to begin discussion of the draft convention on the liberalization of trade in services that has been elaborated by Lebanon;

IV

To request the Economic and Social Council rapidly to complete its conceptualization of and proposals for a study on the establishment of an Arab customs union for submission to the Arab summit; and to ask the Arab States to provide the necessary

information to help the secretariat prepare the required studies;

V

To allow the least developed Arab countries a transitional period, beginning from the date of their accession, in which their customs tariffs and duties and taxes of similar effect imposed on Arab goods will gradually be reduced, in equal increments, beginning in 2004 and will be completely eliminated by 1 January 2010 and in which they will enjoy all the facilities and exemptions accorded by the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.

(*Summit resolution 14/233, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Promotion of the transport sector in the Arab States

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Affirming the effective role played by the transport sector in Arab economic integration, and conscious of the importance of modernizing and developing this sector in the Arab States for the purpose of linking centres of production and consumption in all parts of the Arab world,

Having considered:

The resolutions of the Arab Council of Ministers of Transport on the upgrading of inter-Arab overland and maritime transport networks;

The endeavours of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to establish a network of high-speed highways linking the Arab States, and the Commission's Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq that has been ratified by 12 Arab States;

And the efforts of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to rehabilitate and operate major overland routes linking the Arab countries;

Recalling section II of its resolution 212 of 28 March 2001 requesting the relevant Arab entities to examine the transport problem in all its aspects and dimensions as well as means of enhancing land, sea and air links among the Arab States;

Decides:

1. To request the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport to complete the studies necessary in order to investigate means of enhancing land, sea and air links among the Arab States and improving transport efficiency, to coordinate all the efforts of the Arab institutions involved in this sector with those of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and the secretariat of the League of Arab States so that the question can be discussed in all its aspects and dimensions with the participation of the authorities concerned in the public and private sectors, and to present specific proposals in this regard to the Economic and Social Council for subsequent submission to the Arab summit;

2. To welcome the initiative taken by the Lebanese Republic in elaborating a draft convention for the facilitation of transport among the Arab States, in order to address all the difficulties confronted by the sector, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and, on completion, submission to the next Arab summit conference for endorsement by the Arab States.

(*Summit resolution 14/234, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Deregulation of air travel among the Arab countries

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Conscious of the challenges facing the air transport sector in the Arab States,

Persuaded of the importance of strengthening and developing the role of the sector in order to stimulate tourism and economic activity in the Arab States,

Believing in the role of the sector in facilitating the movement of persons and goods among the Arab States,

Seeking to create further opportunities for competition among Arab airlines in the interests of air transport users in the Arab world,

Having considered:

Council of Arab Ministers of Transport resolution 197 of September 1998, approving the gradual deregulation of air transport among the Arab States;

The programme formulated by the Arab Civil Aviation Organization for the phased deregulation of air transport among the Arab States,

Decides:

1. To approve the deregulation of air transport among the Arab States in accordance with the resolutions of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and the Arab Civil Aviation Organization;

2. To request the Arab ministers of transport (the ministers responsible for civil aviation in the Arab States) to implement this resolution and to submit interim reports on its implementation to the Arab summit through the Economic and Social Council until such time as the programme for the deregulation of air transport among the Arab states has been completed.

(*Summit resolution 14/235, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Completion and consolidation of electricity linkages among Arab countries

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The comprehensive report on inter-Arab electricity linkages prepared by the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity in implementation of section III of Arab summit resolution 212 of 28 March 2001,

Appreciating the efforts of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity to promote electricity linkages among the Arab States and to cooperate more closely in the electricity sector as well as the efforts of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to fund projects for electricity linkages among the Arab countries,

Decides:

I

1. To approve the report submitted by the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity on the expedited completion of electricity linkages among the Arab countries and the recommendations contained therein;

2. To urge Arab States that are not linked to any of the existing electricity grid projects or those being implemented to endeavour to develop their electricity sectors, increase their capacity and complete the interlinkage of their domestic electricity grids so as to prepare themselves to join the inter-Arab electricity linkage projects;

3. To request the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity to secure the funding required for the preparation of the studies identified as necessary in the Council's report;

4. To invite the inter-Arab and international financial institutions to contribute to providing the necessary funding for electricity linkage projects among the Arab States;

II

To request the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity to submit periodic reports to the Arab summit conference, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in implementing the project for electricity linkages among the Arab countries;

III

To establish an inter-Arab energy market and utilize the sources of energy available to it (oil and gas) in order to export electric power and benefit from the consequent added value instead of exporting them in the form of primary materials; and to request the Economic and Social Council and the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity to coordinate action to that end with the companies and establishments operating in the oil and gas sector and to submit an interim report thereon to the Arab summit.

(*Summit resolution 14/236, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Promotion of inter-Arab tourism

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The report of the Arab Ministerial Council on Tourism and its recommendations on the promotion of inter-Arab tourism and the enhancement of the economic aspects of the Arab tourism sector,

Conscious of the important and expanding role of the tourism sector in the economies of the Arab States,

Aware that the Arab private sector bears the greater part of the burden of tourism-related investment and that it has the capacity to play a more effective role once the obstacles to its proper functioning are removed,

Considering the impact on the performance of the tourism sector of the actions of numerous governmental agencies,

Considering also the possibility of mitigating the adverse impact of outside influences on the sector by devising solutions at the Arab regional level,

Appreciating the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Council on Tourism and of other Arab councils and agencies to achieve integration and complementarity in Arab tourism,

Decides:

1. To request the Arab Ministerial Council on Tourism to formulate the projects required to achieve integration and complementarity in Arab tourism, to investigate the means of having economic feasibility studies for such projects carried out and of opening them to investors and businessmen, and to urge the Arab banks and financial institutions to provide incentives for their implementation;

2. To endorse the concept of the equality of the Arab tourist and the local resident so that there is no differentiation between them in terms of prices charged for accommodation, air travel and entry fees to tourist sites and attractions; and to request the Arab ministries and other entities concerned to endeavour to bring this about;

3. To request the Arab Council of Ministers of Transport to expedite the elaboration of an Arab convention on the overland carriage of passengers between the Arab countries in order to facilitate intra-Arab tourism, to submit a report on its previous efforts to complete such a convention and on the difficulties encountered, and to provide its recommendations;

4. To request the Arab Council of Ministers of the Interior to investigate possible ways of eliminating the requirement for entry visas for Arab citizens, to ease significantly the granting and extension of visas by expediting the introduction of the necessary computer networks, and to arrange to submit a report on developments in this regard to the 2003 Arab summit;

5. To request the Arab ministers of tourism and information, acting in coordination with each other, to undertake joint campaigns to project the cultural and human image of Arabs and Muslims worldwide and to stimulate and develop tourist travel to the Arab region and make it more effective.

(*Summit resolution 14/237, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

International protection for the children of Palestine

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The note by the secretariat,

Having examined the dangerous situation affecting Palestinian children,

Decides:

1. To reaffirm its previous resolution on the provision of all care and support to Palestinian children and on meeting their health and educational needs;

2. To ask the supreme Arab councils for children to make every effort, at the international level, to provide protection for Palestinian children and to take prompt action with all relevant international institutions to ensure that their lives are secure;

3. To request the secretariat to form a committee of experts, consisting of Arab jurists, to examine the situation of Palestinian children in the light of the provisions of the relevant international covenants, treaties and conventions, to formulate the necessary measures to ensure the conviction of anyone who perpetrates an outrage against them and to secure international protection for them;

4. To request the secretariat to convene an international conference of international organizations and global juristic bodies active in the fields of human rights and children's rights in order to elaborate programmes to prevent outrages against the children of Palestine and protect them from practices that violate international treaties and covenants;

5. To urge member States to participate actively in the work of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on chiidren to be held in May 2002.

(*Summit resolution 14/238, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Rights of the Arab child

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Recalling its resolution 216 of March 2001, the final declaration of the high-level Arab conference on the rights of the child (Cairo Declaration: Towards an Arab world worthy of children) adopted on 4 July 2001, and the ongoing preparations for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on children to be held from 8 to 10 May 2002,

Taking account of the recommendations adopted by:

The seminar of youth representatives hosted by Jordan in November 2000;

The civil society seminar hosted by Morocco in February 2001;

The conference of Arab and African ministers of finance hosted by Morocco in May 2001,

Decides:

1. To endorse the Cairo Declaration and to regard the Declaration and resolution 216 as part of the Framework for Arab Action for Children;

2. To urge member States to begin at an early stage the preparation of national plans of action to ensure the expeditious implementation of the Arab and international declarations and conventions on children that they have ratified;

3. To request the secretariat, in cooperation with the Tunisian Government and the specialized agencies and organizations of the League of Arab States and the United Nations, to prepare for the third high-level Arab conference, to be hosted by Tunisia;

4. To urge the full participation of civil society and of youth in the national, regional and international consultations on future action for children, including the special session of the United Nations General Assembly and the third high-level Arab conference on the rights of the child;

5. To foster support for measures to protect children in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Geneva Conventions and international law.

(*Summit resolution 14/239, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Alleviation of poverty in the Arab world

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Proceeding on the basis of the inherited tradition in Arab civilization of endeavouring to achieve equality and social justice,

Seeking to promote economic and social development in the Arab world,

Desiring to ensure the stability of Arab society and secure its progress and prosperity,

Decides:

1. To give the highest priority in the development programmes of member States to policies for the alleviation of poverty;

2. To ask the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs and the Economic and Social Council to attach high importance to issues relating to poverty and to regard the phenomenon as a standing item in their respective agendas: and to request the secretariat to coordinate follow-up action with member States for the elaboration of workable strategies and programmes at the inter-Arab level to alleviate poverty;

3. To request the secretariat, in coordination with member States and international and inter-Arab organizations and other entities, to participate in the implementation of programmes for the alleviation of poverty in the Arab world.

(*Summit resolution 14/240, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Resolution adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Information at its emergency session of 15 August 2001 on the implementation of a high-priority information plan in support of the Palestinian cause

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered:

The note by the secretariat;

The resolution adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Information at its emergency session held on 15 August 2001,

Decides:

To approve the allocation of the necessary appropriations for the implementation of the information programme indicated in the resolution adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Information at its emergency session held on 15 August 2001.

(*Summit resolution 14/241, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Venue and date of the fifteenth regular session of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States

The Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States,

Recalling the provisions set forth in the annex to the Pact of the League of Arab States relating to the regular periodic convening of the Summit-level Council of the League,

Further recalling its resolution 220, adopted in Amman on 28 March 2001, to the effect that the Kingdom of Bahrain should assume the presidency of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States at its fifteenth regular session,

Decides:

To hold the fifteenth regular session of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States in Manama, capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in March 2003.

(*Summit resolution 14/242, adopted on 28 March 2002*)

Final communiqué

Meeting of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States in Beirut on 27 and 28 March 2002

1. At the kind invitation of His Excellency General Émile Lahoud, President of the Lebanese Republic, and in implementation of the resolution adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Cairo on 21 and 22 October 2000 to the effect that the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States would normally meet in regular session once a year, the Council met in Beirut, capital of the Lebanese Republic, on 27 and 28 March 2002.

Expression of appreciation to the Lebanese Republic and recognition of the address of His Excellency President Émile Lahoud as a document of the meeting

2. The Arab leaders convey their deep appreciation to the President, Government, National Assembly and people of the Lebanese Republic for their attention and solicitude and for the excellent preparations made for the summit. They decided to recognize the inaugural address of President Émile Lahoud, Chairman of the summit, as a document of the meeting.

Expression of gratitude to His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein for his endeavours as Chairman of the March 2001 thirteenth Arab summit

3. The leaders considered a royal missive from His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan transmitting the report of the presidency of the summit and the report of the Follow-up and Action Committee. They convey their deep gratitude to His Majesty for his valuable achievements during his term as Chairman of the thirteenth regular Arab summit, convened in March 2001.

Congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, on his recovery and safe return home

4. The leaders express their great happiness that God has granted recovery to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, and at His Highness's safe return home to his beloved people in good health. They wish His Highness lasting health so that he may continue to promote the increased progress, prosperity and security of the fraternal people of Kuwait and to participate with his fellow leaders in the advancement of the Arab nation.

Approval of the constitutional reforms in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the transition to a constitutional monarchy

5. The leaders offer their fraternal and heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, and to his people on the fact that the Bahrain National Charter approved by the people of Bahrain has resulted in the declaration of Bahrain as an Arab, Islamic constitutional monarchy and in the establishment of its constitutional institutions. They hope that the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain, under his judicious leadership, will achieve further progress and prosperity and will continue to participate with its Arab brothers in the process of joint Arab action and in achieving the goals of the Arab nation.

Strengthening of Arab solidarity and effective utilization of the institutions of joint Arab action

6. In an atmosphere of mutual understanding, brotherhood and frankness, the leaders examined the condition of the Arab nation and the challenges confronting it as well as the situation in the Arab region. They conducted a thorough assessment of regional and international developments, focusing on the strengthening of Arab solidarity and the effective utilization of the institutions of joint Arab action in order to defend the interests and rights of the nation and safeguard Arab national security. They considered that the fact that the summit was being held in Lebanon was of special significance as an event that expresses the solidarity of the Arab nation with Lebanon and provides an opportunity to affirm commitment to the norms and basic principles underlying joint Arab action.

Expression of gratitude to the chairman and members of the Follow-up and Action Committee established by the 2001 Amman summit

7. The leaders address their thanks to the chairman and members of the Follow-up and Action Committee

established by the 2001 Amman summit for their commendable efforts to implement the resolutions of the summit. They assign to the presidency of the current summit the task of holding consultations with the Arab leaders and with the Secretary-General on the Committee's composition and on establishing its mechanisms and modes of operation.

Report of the Secretary-General

8. The leaders considered the report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of joint Arab action, including the process of updating and expanding the League of Arab States system so as to enable all of its institutions to meet pan-Arab national requirements with a view to keeping pace with new developments at the regional and national levels. They express their high estimation of the measures taken by the Secretary-General to implement the resolutions of the previous summit in this regard.

The grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories

9. The leaders reviewed the extremely grave situation of the Palestinian people resulting from the systematic and total war of destruction being waged against it by the Israeli occupation forces with all the means and weapons at their disposal in order to destroy its institutions, subjugate it and extinguish the flame of resistance to occupation in its soul. At the same time, Israel is persisting in its settlement policy and in assassinations, the demolition of homes, the establishment of isolation zones, the destruction of the environment, the maintenance of an economic blockade and expulsions and forced displacements, all in flagrant violation of international law and international agreements, conventions and covenants.

They hold Israel fully accountable for its aggression, for its savage practices against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority and for the destruction and damage it has inflicted on infrastructure in towns, villages and camps and on the Palestinian national economy. They affirm that Israel must be held liable for the payment of compensation for all such destruction and damage.

They call, in this connection, for the implementation of the Declaration adopted on 5 December 2001 by the reconvened Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, in which the participants call on Israel to respect the provisions of the Convention in full in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and to honour its obligations as the occupying Power.

Acclaim for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and for its Intifadah

10. With great pride, the Arab leaders acclaim the splendid steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people and its valiant Intifadah as well as its legitimate national leadership headed by President Yasser Arafat. They express their admiration and esteem for the martyrs of the Intifadah, and they commend the spirit of devotion, tenacity and sacrifice of their families and of the Palestinian people, which has succeeded in engaging the Israeli war machine and thwarting the policy of the fait accompli that the occupation authorities have tried to impose.

Support for the Palestinian economy, and a subvention to the budget of the Palestinian National Authority

11. The leaders reviewed the tragic situation of the Palestinian Arab people resulting from the fact that the Israeli occupation forces are continuing to destroy its infrastructure, maintain a blockade against it and its national leadership, and to make increasing use of all forms of aggression against the lives and dignity of the Palestinian people. The leaders affirm that they will continue to support the Palestinian economy and its infrastructure in order to perpetuate the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in its land. They thus decide to grant a subvention to the Palestinian National Authority for a total amount of 330 million dollars, to consist of 55 million dollars a month for six months beginning on 1 April 2002, automatically renewable every six months for as long as the Israeli aggression continues and the Palestinian National Authority remains in need of the subvention, it being understood that all such sums are to be in the form of non-reimbursable grants, that the required contribution from each member State is to be proportional to its share in the scale of assessments for the budget of the League secretariat, and that the contributions of member States are to be paid into a new special account to be opened for this purpose by the secretariat of the League of Arab States. They also decide that the Arab States should provide a further subvention in the

amount of 150 million dollars to be channelled to the Al-Aqsa Fund and the Al-Quds Intifadah Fund.

The leaders request the secretariat to continue to take action to coordinate and promote the efforts of inter-Arab and international institutions and non-governmental organizations to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and to organize a campaign to have citizens of the Arab nation contribute one day's pay to be deposited in the account to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people established by the secretariat at branches of the Arab Bank (account No. 124448).

Commitment of the Arab States to a just and comprehensive peace as an objective and a strategic choice

12. The leaders reaffirm their past resolutions on their commitment to a just and comprehensive peace as an objective and a strategic choice to be achieved by compliance with international legitimacy. They urge Israel to resume the peace negotiations on all tracks on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978), and General Assembly resolution 194 (III), the terms of reference of the Madrid conference and the principle of land for peace.

They affirm that a comprehensive and just peace can only be achieved: by Israel's complete withdrawal from all the Arab territories it is occupying, and especially from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and the Lebanese territories still under occupation, including the Shab'a farmlands; by enabling the Palestinian people to enjoy all of its inalienable rights, including the right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian State on its own national soil with Jerusalem as its capital; by guaranteeing the right of return of the Palestine refugees in accordance with the principles of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 194 (III); and by the release of Arab detainees and abduction victims from all Israeli prisons.

Endorsement of the right of return and rejection of schemes and moves to resettle Palestine refugees away from their homes

13. The leaders regard Israel as having full legal responsibility for the existence of the problem of the Palestine refugees and for their expulsion. They affirm their total rejection of proposed solutions and for schemes and moves that seek to resettle them in places other than their homes. They affirm their commitment to the Security Council resolutions relating to the City of Jerusalem, specifically its resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 465 (1980) and 478 (1980), in which the Council affirms that all measures Israel has taken and is taking to change the character of the City are null and void. In this context, the leaders reaffirm the provisions of the Arab summit resolutions adopted in Amman in 1980, Baghdad in 1990 and Cairo in 2000 concerning the severance of all relations with States that relocate their embassies to Jerusalem or recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Message to Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan

14. The leaders condemn Israel in the strongest terms for its continuing occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and affirm their full solidarity with Syria and their support for its right to the full restoration of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, to the line of 4 June 1967, in accordance with the principles of the peace process and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The leaders further declare their support for the steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and in their opposition to the Israeli occupation and its repressive practices and in their insistence on retaining their land and their Syrian Arab identity. They affirm that the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 must be applied to citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan.

The leaders further stress their commitment to the United Nations resolutions requiring non-recognition of any situation created by Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories. They regard such activities as illegal, as creating no rights and establishing no obligations, and as constituting a breach of the Geneva Conventions, a war crime under Additional Protocol I to the Conventions and a violation of the principles of the peace process.

Solidarity with Lebanon and approval of the Lebanese national resistance

15. The leaders support Lebanon in seeking, by all legitimate means, to complete the liberation of its territory from Israeli occupation up to its internationally recognized boundaries, including the

Shab'a farmlands. They commend the role of the valiant Lebanese resistance and the splendid Lebanese steadfastness that brought about the rout of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa.

They demand the release of the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons and the delivery to the United Nations of all the maps showing the locations of the landmines left behind by the Israeli occupation. They call upon Israel to pay Lebanon compensation for its persistent aggression against it and for the casualties of the Qana massacre caused by its shelling of a United Nations compound in southern Lebanon.

They caution that any continuation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty exemplified by the violation of Lebanese airspace and territorial waters by Israeli aircraft and warships may create an explosive situation along Lebanon's southern boundaries. They warn of the dire consequences, for which Israel must bear full responsibility, of the incitement and provocation this represents.

The leaders express their complete solidarity with Lebanon and Syria, and they reject the Israeli threats against them. They regard any aggression against them as aggression against all the Arab States.

Reaffirmation of the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences on support for Lebanon and assistance in its reconstruction efforts

16. The leaders reaffirm the Arab summit conference resolutions on the need to support Lebanon and assist its reconstruction efforts. They commend the assistance provided by some Arab States for this purpose, and they urge member States that have expressed readiness to provide such support to do so. They call for the reactivation of the Lebanon Support Fund so that the country can rebuild its infrastructure, especially in the areas that have been liberated from Israeli occupation.

Reactivation of the Office for the Arab Boycott of Israel

17. In the light of the setback to the peace process, the leaders affirm their commitment to suspending the maintenance of any relations with Israel and to reactivating the Office for the Arab Boycott of Israel until such time as Israel complies with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference and withdraws fully from all the occupied Arab territories to the line of 4 June 1967.

Placement of all Israeli nuclear installations under the international safeguards regime, and demand that Israel should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

18. The leaders affirm that lasting peace and security in the region require Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the submission of all its nuclear installations to the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They affirm in this connection the extreme importance of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as a necessary and indispensable precondition for the future establishment of any arrangements for regional security in the Middle East.

Responsibility and role of the international community in advancing the peace process

19. The leaders welcome the positions taken and initiatives advanced by the European Union in seeking to promote a just and comprehensive political solution to the Middle East issue on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace. They stress the need for Europe to continue to play an active role in this context and for the efforts of other friendly countries.

They appeal to the United States to reassess its reading of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and related calculations and attitudes and to set aside the entanglement of the attacks of 11 September — which the Arabs have condemned — in the context of its dealings with the Middle East.

They call upon the United States to meet its responsibilities, and they urge it to resume the peace process on all tracks without delay and avoid giving Israel any further opportunity to subjugate the Palestinian people and pursue a policy of murder and destruction against it on the pretext of combating terrorism.

Counter-terrorism

20. The leaders reviewed developments in the situation in the international arena after the events of 11 September 2001 and the emergence of a global

counter-terrorism campaign on the basis of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

They reaffirmed their condemnation of the attacks in the United States of America, their rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and their full readiness to cooperate and participate in every effort to combat terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. They urge the necessity of convening an international conference within the United Nations framework to consider the question of terrorism and formulate a precise definition of the phenomenon.

They stress the need to differentiate clearly between terrorism, which they condemn, and the legitimate right of peoples to resist, reject and defend themselves against foreign occupation in accordance with the principles of international legality and the relevant United Nations resolutions, especially General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991, entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism".

They affirm the right of the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people and the Syrian people to resist Israeli occupation and aggression as a legitimate right that is guaranteed by international law and international covenants. They reject any conflation of this legitimate right to resist occupation with the State terrorism practised by Israel in the Palestinian territories.

They stress that any perversion of the concept of terrorism so that it embraces Arab resistance to Israeli occupation would provide illicit cover for the continued existence of the occupation and State terrorism practised by Israel at the expense of Arab rights and in violation of the resolutions of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

Considering that terrorism is a global phenomenon and one that is not linked to any one nationality, religion or country, the leaders affirm their total rejection of attempts in some circles to link the terrorism phenomenon with Islam and the Arabs.

They reject the attempt to exploit the campaign against terrorism to direct threats of force against any Arab State, and they would regard any such threats as aggression against the region, as prejudicial to its security and stability and thus as incompatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and international law.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

21. The Arab leaders welcome the assurances given by the Republic Iraq concerning respect for the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait, thereby obviating any possible repetition of the events of 1990. They urge the pursuit, in a framework of good faith and relations of good-neighbourliness, of policies conducive to that goal. They urge, in this connection, the importance of halting negative media campaigns and pronouncements with a view to creating a positive climate in which the two countries can confidently uphold the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

The leaders demand respect for the independence, sovereignty, security, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

They urge Iraq to cooperate in the formulation of a speedy and definitive solution to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and the return of property, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, and they call for Kuwait's cooperation in connection with Iraq's submissions, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, concerning missing Iraqis.

The leaders welcome the resumption of the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations, which began in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with a view to the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

They call for the sanctions imposed on Iraq to be lifted and for the suffering of its fraternal people to be brought to an end so that stability and security in the region can be ensured.

Threat of aggression against certain Arab States

22. The leaders considered the threat of aggression against certain Arab States, and in particular Iraq, and they affirm their unconditional rejection of a strike against Iraq and any threat to the security and integrity of any Arab State as a threat to the national security of all Arab States.

Affirmation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands and appeal to the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation and desist from pursuing a policy of imposing faits accomplis

23. The leaders reaffirm the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, namely the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and their support for all the peaceful measures and actions it is taking with a view to restoring its sovereignty over its three Arab islands. The leaders call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation of the three Arab islands and to desist from pursuing a policy of imposing faits accomplis by force in the three islands, including the construction of installations for the settlement of Iranians there. They urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to seek peaceful means of resolving the ongoing dispute concerning the three Arab islands in accordance with the principles and norms of international law and to agree to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice. The leaders request the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to monitor the issue of the Iranian occupation of the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and to submit a report on the matter to the next Arab summit conference.

Support for the Great the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its request to the Security Council for the immediate and definitive lifting of the sanctions being maintained against it

24. The leaders renew their support for and solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its request to the Security Council for the immediate and definitive lifting of the sanctions being maintained against it, the great Jamahiriya having discharged all of the obligations set forth in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Arabs will countermand the sanctions and will regard themselves as free of all obligation in their regard should they be maintained.

The leaders express their support for the Great Jamahiriya in seeking compensation for the damage done to it in both material and human terms by the sanctions that were imposed on it. They call for the immediate release of the Libyan national Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi, who was convicted for political reasons that bear no relation to the law.

Commendation of the efforts of the transitional Government of Somalia to achieve complete reconciliation and to restore national unity

25. The leaders stress the preservation of Somalia's unity and territorial integrity and the rejection of interference in its internal affairs. They welcome the efforts of the transitional Government of Somalia to achieve complete reconciliation, to restore national unity and to return security and stability to the country. They affirm the importance of action to provide material and technical aid and of the prompt payment of assessed contributions to the Somalia support account. They decide to provide a subvention in the amount of 56 million dollars to the transitional Somali Government in order to enable it to implement its high-priority programme for the restoration of security and stability and to complete the Somali reconciliation process and the rebuilding of State institutions.

Commitment to the unity and sovereignty of the Republic of the Sudan, and support for the joint Egyptian-Libyan initiative to promote the achievement of peace and national reconciliation in the Sudan

26. The leaders express their appreciation of the efforts made by the Government of the Sudan to achieve a comprehensive peace and national reconciliation among all Sudanese and to deliver relief aid to those in need. They affirm their commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan and their support for the joint Egyptian-Libyan initiative to promote the achievement of peace and national reconciliation in the Sudan.

Statute of the Arab fund to assist the Sudan in developing the south

27. The leaders considered the draft statute of the Arab fund to assist the Sudan in developing the south. They decide to approve the statute and to request the Secretary-General to hold consultations on the mobilization of financial resources for the fund. They urge member States to make the necessary contributions in order to send a clear message to the Sudanese people that the Arab States are supporting the efforts being made for the reconstruction of the southern Sudan.

Support for the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, and assistance in its reconstruction and development

28. The leaders express their full commitment to the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. They welcome the holding of democratic elections, and they endorse the efforts for national reconciliation being made by the Comoran Government with all the parties concerned, in cooperation with the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, with a view to safeguarding the country's unity and achieving comprehensive national reconciliation. They decide to provide the necessary support to assist the country's reconstruction and development. In this context, they express their appreciation to the member States that have contributed to the fund for the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, and they renew their call to other Arab States also to contribute to the fund.

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and appeal to Turkey to enter into trilateral negotiations with Iraq and Syria on the sharing of their waters

29. The leaders affirm their support for the rights of Iraq and Syria with respect to the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The leaders consider that the water issue, in its legal, economic and security dimensions, is a most vital one for the Arab nation. They appeal to Turkey to enter into trilateral negotiations with Iraq and Syria, in accordance with the norms of international law and the agreements concluded among them, with a view to reaching a just and fair agreement on the division of the waters that will guarantee the water rights of the three countries. They also express their concern that Turkey is continuing to build dams and other projects along the two rivers without consulting with Iraq and Syria.

Strengthening of relations of dialogue and cooperation with countries on the periphery of the Arab region

30. The leaders affirm the importance of relations of dialogue and cooperation with the friendly countries on the periphery of the Arab region, especially those linked with the Arab world by historical and cultural ties and common interests, so as to strengthen Arab national security.

Promotion of Afro-Arab cooperation

31. The leaders, in the light of the resolutions adopted by the Ministerial-level Council of the League of Arab States in this regard, affirm the importance of continuing the efforts to eliminate obstacles to effective Afro-Arab cooperation and of regular meetings between the bodies concerned. They request the Secretary-General to pursue his contacts on this matter, including those with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity.

Revival of the Euro-Arab dialogue so as to advance mutually balanced and complementary interests

32. The leaders affirm the importance of developing Euro-Arab relations through specific measures to be agreed with the European side, including the conclusion of an agreement on cooperation between the League of Arab States and the European Union, which will be conducive to the further development of such relations and will serve common interests in accordance with a comprehensive vision that addresses all issues of common concern and advances the mutually balanced and complementary interests of the two sides.

Evolution of the Economic and Social Council

33. The leaders took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the evolution of the secretariat of the League of Arab States and the revitalization of joint Arab action. The leaders decided to refer the proposals relating to the evolution of the Economic and Social Council to the ministers for foreign affairs of member States for their comments and suggestions in this regard, to be submitted to the Ministerial-level Council of the League of Arab States at its one hundred and eighteenth session for the necessary decision to be taken.

World Solidarity Fund for poverty eradication

34. The leaders renew their call to the United Nations and to all States to take the necessary measures to establish and set in operation the World Solidarity Fund for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Arab economies and international economic developments

35. The leaders welcome the efforts made to advance the Arab economies and increase their efficiency so as to permit their increasingly effective integration in the global economy through the establishment of an economic structure characterized by greater efficiency and supported by measures for structural reform and endeavours to increase the scale and degree of export diversification, attract foreign investment and expedite the transfer of technology and new management and marketing methods.

The leaders are aware that the tragic events of 11 September and their adverse repercussions on all regions of the world, including the Arab region, have accelerated the decline in the growth of the global economy of which the first signs were evident prior to that time and whose impact was thus aggravated, thereby requiring all the entities concerned in the Arab countries to redouble their efforts.

Strengthening of Arab economic integration

36. The leaders affirm their commitment to strengthening and giving full effect to Arab economic integration in accordance with a comprehensive plan and in gradual stages, having regard for the linkage of common interests and mutual advantages, and to strengthening the economic capacities of each of the Arab States and facilitating the achievement of comprehensive and sustainable Arab development. They affirm their commitment to strengthening Arab economic cooperation in order to attain these objectives, and they request all the institutions of joint Arab action, each in its own area of jurisdiction, to strive to achieve this.

The leaders express their satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions of the Amman summit on the advancement of Arab economic action, and they urge the Economic and Social Council to implement these resolutions in full and take the necessary measures to that end in cooperation with member States.

Greater Arab Free Trade Area

37. The leaders express their approval of the progress made in the establishment of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area. They commend the advances made in the recent past in this regard, and they endorse the efforts made by the Economic and Social Council to this end and in monitoring the implementation of summit resolution 212 of 28 March 2001 and, in particular, in the steps it has taken to complete the process of establishing the Area by the beginning of 2005.

In implementation of the provisions of the Amman summit resolution relating to the elimination of non-tariff restrictions, the leaders decide to endeavour to standardize the structures of the service fees and the forms and paper work connected with the inter-Arab flow of goods in all the Arab States. They request the Economic and Social Council to take the practical measures required for this purpose, and they direct the other entities concerned in the Arab countries to cooperate with the Economic and Social Council in this regard.

The leaders express their satisfaction at the measures taken by the Economic and Social Council to curtail exemptions, in the framework of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, for States that are currently members of the Area. They assign to the Economic and Social Council the task of assessing the situation with respect to States joining at a later stage.

In an endeavour, on humanitarian grounds and in the light of the economic dimensions, to reduce the obstacles to inter-Arab trade in pharmaceuticals and medical preparations, in particular, the leaders welcome the proposal to establish a unified Arab drug registration board. They request the Council of Arab Ministers of Health to study the Lebanese proposal in this regard and to submit its suggestions for measures to achieve this goal to the Economic and Social Council.

In their commitment to facilitating the admission of the least developed Arab countries to membership of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, the leaders welcome the agreement reached by the Economic and Social Council on special treatment for such countries in order to encourage them to join.

The leaders affirm the importance of expediting the incorporation of the liberalization of trade in services into the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, and they welcome the initiative taken by the Lebanese Republic in initiating discussion of the draft convention on the liberalization of trade in services that has been elaborated by it and the presentation of the results achieved to the Economic and Social Council for submission to the next Arab summit. The

leaders also stress the importance of preparing for a transition to a more advanced stage in Arab economic integration by establishing an Arab customs union. They request the Economic and Social Council to present its proposals and its conceptualization of the issue to the next Arab summit conference.

In view of the importance of regulating competition and controlling monopolies in the Arab States in accordance with rules approved by member States, and given the close link between this issue and that of the liberalization of inter-Arab trade, the leaders support the efforts of the Economic and Social Council to elaborate standardized Arab rules on competition and the control of monopolies.

The leaders affirm that the Economic and Social Council and all the other entities concerned must give their attention to the field of electronic commerce and must facilitate the creation, by harmonizing the legislation of member States, of the means necessary to promote the development of commercial exchanges among them. They invite the Arab States to endeavour to develop their communications infrastructures by linking them through fibre-optic networks and by supporting the efforts of the private sector in this field.

Transport, and means of strengthening overland, maritime and air links among the Arab States

38. The leaders affirm the effective role played by the transport sector in all areas of Arab economic integration and cooperation. They request the Economic and Social Council, the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and all other relevant Arab entities to expedite the completion of the studies on problems relating to transport between the Arab countries and the development of overland, maritime and air links among them and to report on the progress made, on a periodic basis, to the Arab summit. They welcome the decision of the Economic and Social Council to elaborate a collective agreement to address the difficulties encountered by transport in accordance with the proposals submitted by the Lebanese Republic.

Deregulation of air travel among the Arab countries

39. Aware of the challenges encountered by the air transport sector in member States, in order to enable Arab airlines to compete at the inter-Arab and international levels, provide better services to Arab citizens and facilitate movement among the Arab countries and with a view to helping and encouraging the development of tourism in the Arab States, the leaders decide to deregulate air travel among the Arab States in accordance with the resolution of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and the Arab Civil Aviation Organization. They request the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport to take follow-up action on this question and to submit periodic reports on the progress made to the Arab summit until such time as air transport has been completely deregulated.

Support for intra-Arab investment

40. The leaders affirm the importance of encouraging intra-Arab investment and joint ventures, and they invite the Arab funding institutions and the private finance sector to participate in the funding of economic projects implemented by the public and private sectors that contribute to the development of the Arab countries, especially infrastructure projects. They further stress that the necessary steps must be taken to advertise the investment climate in the Arab States and to create permanent channels of communication so that investors can monitor their programmes and their investment interests.

Completion and consolidation of electricity linkages among Arab countries

41. The leaders commend the efforts of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity to promote electricity linkages among the Arab States, as well as its comprehensive report in this regard, and the efforts of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to fund projects for electricity linkages among the Arab countries. They decide to approve the comprehensive report of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity on electricity linkages among the Arab States and the recommendations contained therein. They request the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Electricity to secure the funding required for the preparation of the necessary studies from available sources.

Development of Arab capacities in the information technology and communications field

42. Conscious of the importance acquired by the information and communications sector following the major revolution in the field in recent years and aware of the impact it has had in increasing productivity and competitiveness at the international level and in allowing connectivity among all parts of the Arab world and between it and the world outside, the leaders express their satisfaction at the efforts made to develop and expand the information and communications sector. They appreciate the efforts of the Council of Arab Ministers of Communications in this regard, and they welcome the establishment in Tunis of the Arab Communications and Information Technology Organization. They also welcome the establishment of the Arab Information Technology Forum based in Cairo.

The leaders affirm the importance of the active participation of the Arab States in the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2005 in Tunis at the kind invitation of the Tunisian Government and under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union, given the positive role of this sector in the development of cooperation among the Arab States.

The environmental situation in Palestine and the occupied territories

43. The leaders express their concern at the deterioration in the environmental situation in Palestine and the occupied territories, as exemplified by the contamination of water sources, coastal pollution, the disappearance of natural vegetation cover, the accumulation of hazardous wastes and the many other environmental hazards that have increased the pressures on citizens and worsened their living conditions. The leaders welcome the decision taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session requesting the Executive Director of the Programme to visit the region as a first step towards the appointment of a panel of experts to prepare a thorough and objective study of the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in order to identify sites requiring urgent measures. They ask all of the agencies concerned to provide the necessary information and facilities to the United Nations Environment Programme to help it to conduct and complete the study requested.

World Summit on Sustainable Development

44. The leaders look forward to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002 with a view to achieving closer cooperation among the countries of the world in combating poverty and achieving overall development that will have an impact on all the peoples of the world and will improve their standards of living. They affirm their commitment to acting within a framework of common but differentiated responsibility together with the leaders of the industrially advanced countries and the developing countries in order to achieve sustainable development. They call upon the industrially advanced countries to meet their commitments with respect to assistance for the developing countries in implementation of the outcome of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit and the resolutions and decisions to be adopted by the Johannesburg summit, and they ask them not to make environmental standards an obstacle for the developing countries.

World Food Summit

45. The leaders welcome the World Food Summit: five years later, to be held in Rome from 10 to 13 June 2002. They urge the mobilization of greater international efforts for the success of the summit and for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to be provided with the support necessary to reinforce its efforts in confronting poverty and food problems, especially in the developing countries.

Promotion of inter-Arab tourism

46. In view of the increasing relative importance of the tourism sector at the inter-Arab level, of the losses caused to the sector by recent world events and of the slump and stagnation in tourism at the international and inter-Arab levels, and having considered the report of the Arab Ministerial Council on Tourism on translating the directives of the 2001 Amman summit into measures to promote the Arab tourism sector and tourism among the Arab countries, the leaders decide to approve the recommendations contained in the report in question and to instruct all of the relevant authorities of member States to implement them in

cooperation with the Arab Ministerial Council on Tourism. They request the Arab Ministerial Council on Tourism and the Council of Arab Ministers of Information, acting in coordination with each other, to undertake joint campaigns to project the cultural and human image of Arabs and Muslims and to stimulate and develop tourist travel to the Arab region.

Arab financial institutions

47. The leaders express their satisfaction with the role played by the Arab financial institutions in Arab economic development and in supporting Arab economic integration projects. They affirm the importance of establishing closer cooperation among these institutions and the ministerial councils and organizations operating in the framework of the League of Arab States in order to implement the economic integration projects endorsed by these same councils and organizations.

Invitation to commercial and financial companies to participate in the first Arab Economic Congress

48. The leaders commend the efforts being made by the Egyptian Government and the League of Arab States in their preparations for the convening of the first Arab Economic Congress, to be held in Cairo from 16 to 18 June 2002 by member States and Arab and international economic and financial institutions. They call upon all the Arab entities concerned to participate in the conference so that the desired goals may be achieved.

Convening of the fifteenth regular session of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States in Manama, capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain

49. Pursuant to the provisions of the mechanism for the periodic convening of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States, and in accordance with Amman summit resolution 220 of 28 March 2001 stipulating that the Kingdom of Bahrain is to assume the presidency of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States at its fifteenth regular session, the leaders decided to convene the fifteenth regular session of the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States in Manama, capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in March 2003.

Expression of gratitude to the Lebanese people and to His Excellency President Émile Lahoud for their hospitality and for the preparation and organization that ensured the success of the summit

50. The leaders convey their sincere acclamation and deep gratitude to the President, Government, National Assembly and people of Lebanon for their warm reception and generous hospitality. They express their warm appreciation to His Excellency President Émile Lahoud for the great pains taken by him for the sound preparation and efficient organization that ensured the success of the summit conference's work. The leaders commend the wisdom, diligence and skill with which His Excellency directed the working sessions and which had a far-reaching impact in ensuring the success of the summit's work and the achievement of the important results in which its meetings have culminated.

Beirut Declaration

We, the Kings, Presidents and Amirs of the Arab States, meeting as the Summit-level Council of the League of Arab States (fourteenth regular session) in Beirut, capital of the Lebanese Republic, on 27 and 28 March 2002,

Having examined the grave regional and international developments and their disturbing consequences, the challenges confronting the Arab nation and the threats posed to Arab national security,

Having conducted a thorough evaluation of these developments and challenges, and especially those relating to the Arab region and the occupied Palestinian territories in particular, and of the general war of destruction launched by Israel on the pretext of combating terrorism while exploiting the tragic events of September and the universal condemnation they have merited,

Having discussed the fate of the peace process and Israel's practices that seek to destroy it and to plunge the Middle East into anarchy and instability,

Having observed with the greatest pride the Intifadah of the Palestinian people and its valiant resistance,

Having discussed the Arab initiatives seeking a just and comprehensive peace in the region and compliance with the United Nations resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine,

Invoking the national responsibility and believing in the purposes and principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States and the Charter of the United Nations,

Declare that we shall undertake the following:

To continue to take action to strengthen Arab solidarity in all fields in order to safeguard Arab national security and thwart the foreign schemes to diminish Arab territorial integrity;

To acclaim with pride and admiration the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and its valiant Intifadah against the Israeli occupation and Israel's devastating military machine, its systematic repression and the massacres it commits, targeting children, women and the elderly without distinction and without any humanitarian inhibitions;

To stand in veneration and deference before the valiant martyrs of the Intifadah, and to affirm our constant and manifold support for the Palestinian people in order to sustain its heroic and legitimate struggle against occupation until it achieves its just demands, including the right to return, exercise self-determination and establish an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital;

To act in solidarity with Lebanon in completing the liberation of its territory and to provide it with support for its development and reconstruction;

To express pride in the Lebanese resistance and in the splendid steadfastness of Lebanon that caused the rout of the Israeli forces from most of southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa; to demand the immediate release of Lebanese detainees being held in Israeli prisons in violation of international norms and covenants; to condemn the recurring Israeli aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty exemplified by the violations by Israeli aircraft and warships of Lebanese airspace and territorial waters, which portend dire consequences because they represent incitement, provocation and aggression that might create an explosive situation along Lebanon's southern boundaries for which Israel will be entirely responsible;

To acclaim the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan, to commend their commitment to their national identity and their resistance to the Israeli occupation, to affirm our solidarity with Syria and Lebanon in confronting the Israeli threats of aggression that are undermining security and stability in the region, and to regard any aggression against them as aggression against all the Arab States;

To affirm, in the light of the setback to the peace process, our commitment to suspending the maintenance of any relations with Israel and to reactivating the Office for the Arab Boycott of Israel until Israel complies with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference and withdraws fully from all the occupied Arab territories to the line of 4 June 1967;

To stress that peace in the Middle East is destined never to succeed unless it is just and comprehensive and in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978) and the principle of land for peace; and to affirm the

inseparable character of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and their organic link with the Palestinian track in the achievement of Arab objectives for a global and inclusive solution;

To request Israel, in the context of the sponsorship by the Council of the Saudi initiative as the Arab Peace Initiative, to re-evaluate its policies and incline towards peace and to declare that a just peace is also its own strategic choice;

To further call upon it:

(a) To withdraw fully from the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and from the territories in southern Lebanon that are still occupied;

(b) To arrive at a just and agreed solution to the Palestine refugee problem in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (III);

(c) To accept the establishment of an independent, sovereign Palestinian State in the Palestinian territories occupied since 4 June 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital;

To undertake that the Arab States shall then:

(a) Consider the Arab-Israeli conflict at an end and enter into a peace agreement between them and Israel while achieving security for all the States of the region;

(b) Establish normal relations with Israel in the context of this comprehensive peace;

To guarantee the rejection of all forms of Palestinian resettlement, which is incompatible with the special situation in the Arab host countries;

To urge the Government of Israel and all Israelis to accept the foregoing Initiative in order to safeguard the prospects for peace and spare further bloodshed, thus enabling the Arab States and Israel to live side by side in peace and ensuring for generations to come a secure future in which stability and prosperity can prevail;

To invite the international community and all its constituent States and organizations to support this Initiative;

To request the Chairman of the summit to form a special committee, to include interested member States and the Secretary-General of the League, to pursue the necessary contacts to gain support for this Initiative at all levels and in particular from the United Nations, the Security Council, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the Islamic countries and the European Union;

To welcome the assurances provided by the Republic of Iraq concerning respect for the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait, thereby obviating any possible repetition of the events of 1990; to urge the pursuit, in a framework of good faith and relations of good-neighbourliness, of policies conducive to that goal; and to urge, in this connection, the importance of halting negative media campaigns and pronouncements with a view to creating a positive climate in which the two countries can confidently uphold the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of others;

To demand respect for the independence, sovereignty, security, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq;

To urge Iraq to cooperate in the formulation of a speedy and definitive solution to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages and the return of property, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions; and to call for Kuwait's cooperation in connection with Iraq's submissions, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, concerning missing Iraqis;

To welcome the resumption of the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations, which began in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with a view to the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions;

To call for the sanctions imposed on Iraq to be lifted and for the suffering of its fraternal people to be brought to an end so that stability and security in the region can be ensured;

To reject the threat of aggression against certain Arab States, and in particular Iraq, and to affirm their unconditional rejection of a strike against Iraq, or a threat to the security and integrity of any Arab State, as a threat to the national security of all Arab States;

To affirm the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands and to support all peaceful measures and actions taken with a view to

restoring its sovereignty over them in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the case to the International Court of Justice;

To condemn international terrorism, including the terrorist attack of 11 September 2001 against the United States of America and the exploitation by the Israeli Government of this attack in order to maintain its practice of State terrorism and to launch a devastating general war of aggression against the Palestinian people;

To stress the distinction between international terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign aggression; and to affirm the need to conclude an international agreement in the framework of the United Nations that lays down a precise definition of international terrorism and identifies its causes and the means to address it;

To affirm — in accordance with the repudiation of all forms of racial discrimination, the encouragement of tolerance and coexistence on a basis of mutual respect and the safeguarding of legitimate rights that are advocated by the revealed religions and by human values — the importance of interaction among cultures and civilizations; and to commend the efforts being made by the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and others to communicate the facts concerning Arab and Islamic culture and civilization and to refute the false assertions made in their regard;

To expedite the introduction of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area in the light of the growing phenomenon of global economic groupings and the approaching end of the period set for the application of the World Trade Organization Agreement;

To express our great appreciation to the Lebanese Republic and to His Excellency General Émile Lahoud, President of the Republic, for their attention and solicitude and for the excellent preparations made for the summit; and to convey our deep gratitude to His Excellency President Émile Lahoud for successfully conducting and directing the work of the Arab summit with the highest degree of political skill, mature wisdom and insightful responsibility.

Statement concerning the requirement that innocent civilians should be protected from the dangers of the escalating confrontation caused by the Israeli policy of aggression

At a time when all speak of peace as a strategic choice, Israel is persisting in its aggression and its occupation and in actions seeking to liquidate the land and institutions of the Palestinian people and Palestinian groups and individuals. This is a situation that must be countered with national resistance based on a solid ground of legitimacy.

In this context, and despite the deep anger and mounting frustration caused by the continuing military aggression of the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied territories, the Arab summit calls for the protection of innocent citizens from the dangers of the escalating confrontation caused by the Israeli policy of aggression.

Address by His Excellency General Émile Lahoud, President of the Lebanese Republic

My brothers; Your Majesties, Your Excellencies and Your Highnesses,

I have the joy and the honour to extend to you the warmest welcome to Lebanon, where you will find your kin and your brothers as in your own country. I have the pleasure to convey to you the sense of delight and happiness felt by the entire Lebanese people that you are among us here today. This is a people that wishes the best for your beloved countries and is linked with your fraternal peoples by bonds of affection and kinship and by a long common history. On behalf of the Lebanese people and in my personal capacity, I beseech God almighty to grant us success at this summit that our nation may thus benefit, our interests prosper and our rights be restored.

Dear brothers,

I begin my address by conveying the deepest gratitude, on behalf of you all, to my brother His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein of the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for his endeavours while presiding over this summit at its past session. I thank him for the warm hospitality and solicitude with which he honoured us while the Amman summit was in session, and we wish His Majesty and the fraternal Jordanian people continued success, progress and stability.

I am also gratified to be able to thank His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, my brother, for the decision of the United Arab Emirates to forgo its turn so that this summit could be held in Lebanon, a decision that was made in appreciation of the epic struggle for liberation waged by the Lebanese people against the Israeli occupation.

Dear brothers,

At this very moment, the eyes of the world, and especially the Arab and Islamic world, are upon us. Much is expected of us in the fateful circumstances that have so complicated international and regional parameters that it has become necessary to subject them to examination so as to form a clear perception and take responsible positions that serve our objectives and meet the aspirations of our nation.

The Beirut summit is being held today, one year after our meeting in Amman and another since the Cairo summit, as Israel's serial criminality against the valiant Palestinian people mows down hundreds of dead and wounded on a daily basis, displaces thousands of families, destroys hundreds of homes, institutions and establishments and invades villages and camps as almost the entire world keeps shameful silence and expresses mild disapproval.

Your Majesties, Your Excellencies and Your Highnesses,

More than 30 years have elapsed since the adoption of the United Nations resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw completely from the occupied Arab territories, and more than a half century has passed since the resolutions requiring it to return the Palestinian people to its land. From that time to the Madrid conference, then by way of the Oslo manoeuvres and up to the so-called Mitchell recommendations and the Tenet report, matters have gone from bad to worse. Israel's policy has become increasingly criminal and expansionist, and the Palestinian people has become increasingly dispossessed and progressively more distressed. However, from out of this oppression and pain have come the resistance and the Intifadah, and we are at a new dawn that heralds the restoration of right and the imminence of salvation.

Dear brothers,

Today, the dawn of the resistance and the Intifadah having broken, they have come speaking of a halt to violence in the occupied territories, ignoring any political substance linked with negotiations on the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions. What can it mean merely to halt violence between the occupiers and those resisting occupation except that the occupation will remain safely in place ad infinitum?

Now, as they support Israel in its war against the resistance and the Intifadah, certain States are ascribing terrorism to us — to the Arabs, the first to denounce and condemn it — while seeking to overlook the fact that occupation is the greatest terrorism and to forget that they in America, just as in Europe and elsewhere, liberated their own territory by means of resistance in the past. They also seek to ignore the fact that most of the terrorist groups in connection with which they are accusing us, were established by them themselves. As

far as we are concerned, they are asking us to pay twice: once when they were their friends and once more after they became their enemies. For this precise reason, Arab solidarity requires us to consider any exploitation of this situation against any Arab State as an outrage against all of us.

Dear brothers,

They say that matters in the region are at an impasse, have entered a path that is blocked. As far as we are concerned, we say that the path has been blocked from the outset, by Israel, and that it is this fact that has brought matters to the way they are now. Yes; this explosion was bound to happen, just as the situation is bound to evolve in the future, inasmuch as Israel has blocked from the outset, and is continuing to block, all roads leading to the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978). Everyone knows that Israel withdrew from most of southern Lebanon only under the pressure of the resistance, and it will only defer to the rights of the Palestinian people under the pressure of the Intifadah. This is especially true of the right of return enshrined in General Assembly resolution 194 (III), on which the Taif accord was based, and the Lebanese Constitution rejects any kind of resettlement in Lebanon.

Dear brothers,

The major danger confronting us is not Israel's criminal policy, because history has taught us that this policy will inevitably fail in the long run. The great danger would be our acceptance of the international pressures for us to exchange a halt to the resistance and the Intifadah for a halt to violence rather than for the elimination of the occupation and the restoration of rights. For us, to accept such a trade would be to spurn the sacrifices of the thousands of martyrs who have fallen and to lost the case.

The only patriotically and historically permissible deal must be one for the implementation by Israel of the relevant United Nations resolutions, for its full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories to the boundaries of 4 June 1967 and for the right the Palestinian people to return to its land.

Dear brothers,

The exchange, if there is to be one, must be between the sacrifices of the resistance and the Intifadah on the one hand and a just and comprehensive peace on the other. This alone is the way to genuine stability in the region. The Beirut summit is a historic way station from which the Arabs can address to the world a clear message whose rubric is peace — full peace in exchange for full rights with respect to territory and return — failing which we shall find ourselves again faced with further tragedies and lost opportunities.

My brothers; Your Majesties, Your Excellencies and Your Highnesses,

I again reiterate my welcome to you all and my invitation to make yourselves at home in Lebanon. I transmit to your beloved countries and your fraternal peoples the greetings and affection of the entire Lebanese people, as I beseech God to grant us success at this summit for all the good and right it may do.

Peace be with you.

Chairmen of the delegations of the Arab States, listed by country in the alphabetical order, in Arabic, of the country names

His Excellency Mr. Ali Abul Raghib, Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and Ruler of Dubai

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain

His Excellency Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia

His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

His Excellency Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, First Deputy to the President of the Republic of the Sudan

His Excellency Dr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic

His Excellency Mr. Abdikassim Salad Hassan, President of the Republic of Somalia

Mr. Izzat Ibrahim, Deputy Chairman of the Revolution Command Council of the Republic of Iraq

His Highness Al-Sayyid Fahd Bin Mahmud Al Sa'id, Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman

His Excellency Mr. Farouk Qaddoumi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Director of the Political Department of the State of Palestine

His Highness Sheikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar

His Excellency Colonel Khalid Sharif, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and authorized representative of the Head of State and Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait

His Excellency General Émile Lahoud, President of the Lebanese Republic

His Excellency Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treiki, Secretary of the General People's Committee for African Unity of the Great the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

His Excellency Dr. Atef Muhammad Ebeid, Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt

His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco

His Excellency Sheikh El Avia Ould Mohamed Khouna, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

His Excellency Field Marshal Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen